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Spurling, Norman

From: Miller, Robert
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2014 6:22 AM
To: Spurling, Norman
Cc: Panger, Melissa
Subject: FW: loss report for owl in Alameda County
Attachments: P2748.pdf

Another rodenticide incident from California.

From: McMillin, Stella@Wildlife [mailto:Stella.McMillin@wildlife.ca.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 6:41 PM
To: County Ag Commissioner, Alameda; Daniels, Debbie@CDPR; Bireley, Richard@CDPR; Martin, Jeanne@CDPR; Miller, Robert; Kratville, David@CDFA
Subject: loss report for owl in Alameda County

Hello, Please find a loss report attached for an owl in Alameda County. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thanks.
Stella

Stella McMillin
Senior Environmental Scientist
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Wildlife Investigations Laboratory
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DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
WILDLIFE BRANCH
WILDLIFE INVESTIGATIONS LABORATORY
PESTICIDE INVESTIGATIONS
1701 NIMBUS ROAD
RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95670
PHONE (916) 358-2954

Lab Number P-2748
N Number N14-002
CAHFS D1400460

Date of loss: January 2, 2014
Species: Great horned owl
Listing status: No special status

To: **Dennis Bray,**
Alameda County Agricultural Commissioner

Report Date: February 11, 2014

Remarks
Investigation of loss of great horned owl from Lindsay Wildlife Hospital in Contra Costa County.

Background

A great horned owl, *Bubo virginianus*, was observed in poor condition and then found dead on January 2, 2014, on Lynde Street in Oakland. The carcass was brought to Lindsay Wildlife Hospital, where it was frozen before submission to DFW Wildlife Investigations Laboratory to determine cause of death.

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

The owl was submitted to the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory in Davis for full necropsy. The owl was found to be an adult female in good nutritional condition. Hemorrhages were observed on the left pectoral muscle and both legs and on the right side of the body. Organs such as kidney, liver, and heart were pale. Anticoagulant analysis of liver tissue detected the following anticoagulant rodenticides: 0.24 ppm brodifacoum and traces of bromadiolone and difethialone. Histological examination of cardiac tissue indicated protozoal infection in the heart and immunohistochemistry confirmed *Sarcocystis falcatula* as the cause.

Both anticoagulant rodenticide toxicosis and sarcocystis were identified as likely causes of death. Brodifacoum, bromadiolone, and difethialone are second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides used legally only for the control of commensal rodents. Their presence in the great horned owl indicates non-target exposure of wildlife.

WILDLIFE INVESTIGATIONS LABORATORY

Stella McMillin

Stella McMillin, Senior Environmental Scientist
Wildlife Investigations Laboratory

Approved

Steve Torres

Steve Torres, Program Manager,
Wildlife Investigations Laboratory

Cc: **Jeanne Martin,**
DPR Enforcement

Rich Bireley,
DPR Registration

Dr. Debbie Daniels,
DPR Registration

Robert Miller,
USEPA

David Kratville,
CDFA